



Saddam Hussein

Iraq cut army by 200,000 since war ceasefire

BAGHDAD (R) — President Saddam Hussein has said that Iraq had discharged more than 200,000 soldiers since last August's Gulf war ceasefire and urged Iran to "stop beating the drums of war."

Hussein, in a message read on television Saturday on the eve of Iraq's campaign to start rebuilding its southern town of Fao, called on Tehran to start an immediate exchange of those prisoners of war held more than six years.

He said Iran should "stop beating the drums of war and the feverish endeavour to buy and stock weapons because if Iran does not threaten others, there will be no one who threatens it."

Iraq's Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev signed agreements in Moscow this week which included an accord to boost Iran's military capabilities.

Peace talks between Iran and Iraq started five days after the U.N.-sponsored ceasefire in the eight-year war but have made no progress.

"We proved our deep belief in peace when we discharged more than 200,000 fighters since the ceasefire took effect until now, while you are increasing the number of those whom you call volunteers or reservists," Hussein told Iran in the message.

"Buying and stockpiling weapons and the build-up of the army indicate another path, not the path of peace."

The president said the reconstruction of the southern port of Basra and the start of the rebuilding of Fao, both within easy reach of Iranian weapons, proved Iraq's wish for peace.

Iraq spent some \$3.2 million on a four-month reconstruction of Basra. More than 20,000 workers took part.

President Hussein warned Iran that buying weapons through either the black market or official channels would create an atmosphere of anticipation and anxiety in the region.

He said: "We know that arms dealers have had an effective role in igniting the war and the revival of dealing with them feverishly either in the black market or through official markets will encourage them to feed the anxiety of the region towards the probabilities of renewing the war to make us buy more weapons."

Hussein has invited representatives from Arab heads of state to take part in reconstruction ceremony of the war-battered southern town of Fao and to bring with them stones from their countries to be laid in foundations of the buildings.

Soviet-Iranian pacts cover defence, power, construction projects

NICOSIA (AP) — A defence agreement and a long-term cooperation pact for building railroads, dams and power plants are included in a \$6-billion set of accords signed this week with the Soviet Union, state-run Tehran Radio reported Saturday.

Iran's Economy and Finance Minister Mohammad Javad Irvani gave no details of the defence agreement in a radio interview, but it is believed the Soviets will help Iran replenish military hardware depleted in the Gulf war.

The accords were signed during a landmark visit to Moscow by Iran's powerful parliament speaker, Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Minister of Heavy Industries Behzad Nahavi, who accompanied Hashemi Rafsanjani on the four-day visit, said Moscow would help Iran produce some of its own weapons, the radio reported. The broadcast was monitored in Nicosia.

Iran's relations with Moscow were chilly for years because of the Soviets' military intervention in Afghanistan and their role as Iraq's main arms supplier during the Gulf war.

But ties quickly improved after a United Nations-mediated ceasefire halted the Iran-Iraq war last Aug. 20.

A Tehran Radio commentary called the agreements "unprecedented in the 10-year history" of Iran's Islamic republic.

"The Soviet Union as our only

northern neighbour is endowed with many economic, technical and political capacities which can be used for preservation and promotion of mutual interests," the radio said.

The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), also monitored in Nicosia, quoted Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati as saying Rafsanjani's "visit was made following a decision by leaders of the two countries to upgrade mutual ties in various fields."

The Soviets will be helping Iran rebuild many major industries devastated by Iraqi attacks.

Irvani, also a member of Rafsanjani's delegation, said Soviet technicians would help boost Iran's electricity generating capacity through expanding the plant at Ramin in Ahvaz, Iran's southeastern oil capital as well as the Shaheed Montazeri plant in the central city of Isfahan.

The Soviets also will build several new thermal, hydroelectric and nuclear power plants and seven new dams on five rivers around Iran, he said.

He said the projects will be financed in part by massive exports of natural gas to the Soviet

Union. Iran already has agreed to export three billion cubic metres of natural gas annually under a 15-year accord.

The Soviets also will provide credits to a fixed ceiling for the construction projects and for trade, Irvani said, but did not specify the amount.

The Isfahan steel mill, built by the Soviet Union and damaged in the war, will be upgraded to its original capacity of 1.9 million tons a year and later boosted to four million tons a year, Irvani said.

The accords also called for electrification of Iran's rail system and construction of a rail network linking the northeast Iranian cities of Tehran, Sarakhs and Mashhad in Khorasan province, which borders the Soviet Union.

The railway network will be an "effective step" towards trade with the Far East, IRNA quoted Irvani as saying.

Another transportation accord signed in Moscow will launch a joint shipping line between the Soviet port of Baku and Iranian ports on the Caspian Sea with each country providing two vessels.

Iranian ships also will be permitted to carry passengers and cargo to Europe on Soviet rivers, according to the agreement.

Other transportation agreements will allow Iranian ships, trucks and trains to transit Soviet territory and waters.



In addition, the Soviets have agreed to let Iran sell natural gas to other European countries through the Soviet Union, Irvani said. An accord with Bulgaria already has been reached.

Gas sales to the Soviet Union were halted in 1980 over a price dispute. The price will now be determined according to international base rates, IRNA quoted Irvani as saying.

The Iranian cabinet Saturday approved legislation allowing the Caspian provinces of Mazandaran and Gilan to export non-oil goods totalling \$30 million a year to neighbouring Asian republics of the Soviet Union, Irvani said.

The provinces of Khorasan and east and west Azerbaijan already have received similar permits.

Soviet satellites will be used to detect possible mineral reserves and help boost Iranian communication systems, Irvani said.

He said the two countries also will exchange students, professors and religious scholars under cultural and scientific agreements signed in Moscow.

Ankara hopes for Soviet role in row with Sofia

ANKARA (R) — Ankara is hoping Moscow will help push Sofia into discussing the question of ethnic Turks leaving Bulgaria, diplomats said Sunday.

More than 65,000 mainly Muslim ethnic Turks living in Warsaw Pact-member Bulgaria have flooded into Turkey this month, fleeing what is described as a forced assimilation campaign. Bulgaria denies the charges and says the exodus is a result of relaxed travel regulations.

Bulgarian leader Todor Zhivkov met Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow Friday and the Soviet ambassador to Ankara is due back Monday after visiting Moscow and Sofia.

"It appears the Soviets have started some sort of mediation but it is difficult to know how fast it will go. Turkey is pinning some hope on Moscow," a Western diplomat said.

Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz will meet Soviet Ambassador Albert Chernyshev Monday when the envoy returns from Moscow and Sofia, ministry spokesman Inal Batu, said.

"It is too early to say whether the Soviets are mediating. On Monday, we may be able to know what is happening," he said.

Political columnist Sami Kohen wrote in the liberal daily Milliyet: "Chernyshev's first meeting with Yilmaz, then flying to Moscow

and Sofia and then meeting Yilmaz again means Soviet diplomacy is dealing with the issue."

Bulgaria's official BTA news agency said Zhivkov's talks with Gorbachev were "extremely fruitful" but gave no clue on whether the issue of ethnic Turks was raised.

Bulgaria told Turkey Thursday it was ready for bilateral talks but it was unclear whether Sofia was willing to discuss a migration pact also safeguarding the rights of ethnic Turks.

Turkey has said if necessary it will take all the estimated two million ethnic Turks in Bulgaria.

Sofia says 150,000 have received passports to enter Turkey and that a further 100,000 applications are being processed.

Diplomats said Moscow had leverage with Bulgaria, a loyal Warsaw Pact ally in the Balkans and recipient of probably more Soviet aid credits than any other East European state.

"One thing that may hold the Soviets back from exerting pressure on Bulgaria is the relatively low Western response so far to the Bulgarian 'deportations'," one diplomat said.

Up to 50,000 Turks, shouting "send in the army to Sofia," demonstrated in Istanbul's Taksim Square Saturday.

War-weary Afghans think twice about old hatreds

By Kathleen Callo
Reuter

KABUL — Said Yahya was watering his garden just after dawn Friday when the rocket hit.

Flying shrapnel killed the 45-year-old government chauffeur, tore his saplings from the ground and gouged deep scars throughout his two-storey house.

A few streets away, in the Khair Khanna district of the Afghan capital, Nadara Sher told his 22-year-old bride when she stepped outside for a breath of air.

The shopkeeper said rockets like the one that killed his wife, fired by Mujahedeen guerrillas from hills surrounding Kabul, had made residents sick of war and ready to forget past ideological support for the rebels.

"Before in Afghanistan, it was a religious war, a war for Islamic goals," he said, standing in front of his house as mourning women, covered from head to toe in traditional capes, fluttered past him

through the gate.

"Today it is no longer a religious war. The fight now is over power."

A nine-year occupation by Soviet troops united many Afghans in their deep dislike for Kabul's Moscow-backed government.

Since Soviet troops completed their withdrawal last February, the government of President Najibullah has tried to show a friendlier face, and a growing number of Afghans are beginning to lend a cautious ear.

"There is a certain phenomenon after years of war," one Western relief worker said. "People just get so weary of it, they are ready to accept things or people they refused to deal with before."

It is hard to find residents in Kabul, a city of two million tucked in a valley among rugged mountain ranges, who say they like the 42-year-old president.

The Mujahedeen hold the former head of Afghanistan's secret police largely responsible

for more than one million lives lost during 10 years of bloodshed. But he is beginning to win some praise from unlikely circles.

In the last few months, he has urged peace talks with the guerrillas and called for elections to bring to power a broad-based government.

"Frank, impressive" Najibullah

In mid-June he held an unprecedented meeting with teachers at Kabul University, where faculty and students are known for anti-government sentiment and support for the Mujahedeen.

The professors were surprised when Najibullah urged them to criticise his administration.

"We give you a good grade on your foreign policy," one academic told him. "On domestic policy, we give you a zero."

Another teacher told Najibullah he should step down and give way to a coalition government.

"It was the first time there

was such a frank exchange between the president and university people," admitted one professor, who said he had always hated the government. "It was really very impressive."

When Soviet forces withdrew, the United States and most Western countries closed their embassies and predicted the guerrillas would overthrow Najibullah within days.

He has held on and seems to be gaining ground in a public relations war against the United States and Pakistan, which continued to arm the Mujahedeen.

"People are gradually realising the national character of the regime and now want national peace on the basis of objective realities and national tradition of our country," Najibullah told provincial military commanders June 22.

He says his government, which receives huge military support from Moscow, wants peace. He accuses Washington and Islamabad of being "warmongers."

It is a message stated repeatedly by government officials

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Egyptian minister postpones Sudan visit

CAIRO (R) — A Senior Egyptian minister has postponed a visit to Sudan, in the latest sign of a rift between the two countries since Khartoum renewed its appeal for Cairo to extradite or expel former Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri. Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Youssri Mustapha postponed the visit ostensibly because he was involved in talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Relations between the two neighbours have deteriorated following accusations by Sudan that Numeiri was involved in an attempted coup last week. Government sources in Cairo said Sunday the current atmosphere between the two countries was not suitable for talks. However, they denied a report in the opposition newspaper Al Wafd that official visits to Sudan had been indefinitely postponed. Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi last week urged Egypt to extradite or expel Numeiri, who was overthrown in a coup in 1985. Sudanese newspapers have suggested that Egypt might also have been involved in last week's failed coup. President Hosni Mubarak said last week that he was too busy organising economic development at home to interfere in the politics of another country.

Kidnappers free Lebanese official

BEIRUT (R) — Kidnappers have freed a top Lebanese official in west Beirut after holding him for four days, police said Sunday. They said Rafi Bsat, director-general of the government's wheat office, was released by his kidnappers late Saturday night. Bsat, a Sunni Muslim, was seized Wednesday over a dispute about distribution of flour in west Beirut, suffering from acute bread shortages caused by blockades clamped by rival forces on each other's territory. Bsat was not available for comment. Acting Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss, who heads a civilian government rivaling a military one, strongly criticised unnamed militias controlling west Beirut and accused militants of kidnapping Bsat.

Human rights team in Somalia

MOGADISHU (R) — A team from Amnesty International has arrived in Mogadishu to investigate the condition of some of the hundreds of political prisoners freed under a presidential pardon. The official Sonna news agency said the team from the London-based human rights group, which arrived Saturday, would spend seven days in Somalia and would meet judges, lawyers and government officials. President Mohammad Siad Barre earlier this year freed hundreds of political prisoners, most of whom had been accused of supporting rebels fighting in northern Somalia last year. Last month the government also pardoned nine Muslim fundamentalists held for allegedly undermining the unity of the Somali people under the cloak of religious propaganda, Sonna said. Somalia has been criticised by human rights groups for its treatment of people accused of supporting the rebels, and for the widespread detentions which followed fierce fighting in northern Somalia last year.

Nablus in Kuwait to aid intifada

KUWAIT (R) — Palestinians originally from the West Bank town of Nablus but now living in Kuwait are to spend less on weddings, and donate the saving towards supporting the anti-Israeli uprising, a charity spokesman said. Mohammad Khair Labbada, an official of an organisation representing around 30,000 people with roots in Nablus, said wedding dowries also were being reduced to KD 200 (\$700) from the traditional KD 1,000 to KD 2,000 (\$3,500 to \$7,000). Around 60 families had made donations so far after being advised on how the money could be sent to the Israeli-occupied territory, he said. "They are presented with lists of 1,200 needy families in the Nablus area to whom the donations will be sent," he told Reuters.

Arafat discusses Afghan peace initiative

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said Saturday he had discussed an initiative for peace in Afghanistan with Pakistani leaders and Afghan parties to the 10-year-old conflict.

In a speech to the Pakistani national assembly, Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), referred to "our own initiative" but gave no details.

"We have all along been sincerely proposing this initiative because we want to spare spilling of blood," he said.

Arafat said he supported efforts for a negotiated settlement based on "national reconciliation," a term used by the Soviet-backed Afghan government which the Western-backed guerrillas have vowed to topple.

A spokesman for a rebel government said Arafat had offered to mediate between the Western-backed rebels and the Soviet Union, which backs the government in Kabul.

Rebel spokesman Gulbuddin Hekmatyar told reporters after meeting Arafat in Islamabad that the guerrillas' "cabinet" would discuss the offer. "We welcome and appreciate anyone who sincerely wants to help the Afghan nation to bring about peace."

The rebels refuse to share power with President Najibullah's ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan but have failed to realise their plans for an early victory after the Soviet Union pulled out its troops last February.

Arafat said he had discussed his plan with Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Pakistan, which supports the rebels, recognises the state of Palestine, proclaimed in November.

Arafat told the Pakistani National Assembly that the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip would end only after Israeli troops moved out.

He urged the United States to pressure for an international peace conference, with the PLO as equal partners in the discussion.

Bhutto, who made a personal donation last April of \$50,000 to the uprising, said after Arafat's speech that "it is clearly not the Palestinian people who want to see the conflict continue."

She said "it is those who do not believe in freedom and peace, who have used arms to terrorise."

Bhutto told the assembly Pakistan regarded the Palestinian movement "for statehood as 'the struggle of every Muslim'."

Arafat last visited Pakistan in March when he also met the Pakistan-based Afghan guerrilla leaders.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Agaba	24 / 41	Khalifah pharmacy	985417
Deer	17 / 37	Queen Alia Int. Airport	06-53200
Jordan Valley	22 / 39		
Yesterday's high temperatures:			
Amman 32, Agaba 37. Humidity readings:			
Amman 22 per cent, Agaba 39 per cent.			
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS			
NIGHT DUTY			
AMMAN:			
Dr. Awni Hawamdeh	777665		
Dr. Yousef Rashid	896301		
Dr. Walid Samad	633266		
Dr. Mohammad Ashbed	778299		
Firas pharmacy	661912		
Ferdous pharmacy	778336		
Al Asama pharmacy	637855		
Nasrallah pharmacy	224572		
Al Salam pharmacy	636730		
Yacoub pharmacy	644945		
Shmeisan pharmacy	637660		
IRBID:			
Dr. Shihab Al Zagh	(—)		
Al Sharna pharmacy	982326		
ZARQA:			
Dr. Mufted Damra	985322		

AMMAN:			
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32		
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn.	644281/6		
Al-Jalal Maternity, J. Amn.	644141/2		
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362		
Malhas, J. Amman	636140		
Palestine, Shmeisan	664171/4		
Amal Hospital	649131		
University Hospital	845445		
Al-Munster Hospital	667277/9		
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/7		
Al-Ahli, Abdali	771013/3		
Italian, Al-Mulajza	771013/3		
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	775117/26		
Army, Marka	891611/15		
Queen Alia Hospital	602403/0		
Amal Hospital	674155		
ZARQA:			
Zarga Govt. Hospital	(09)983323		
Zarga National Hospital	(09)991071		
Al-Sina Hospital	(09)986732		
IRBID:			
Princess Beama Hospital	(02)275555		
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)272725		
Rm Al Nafes Hospital	(02)247100		
AQABA:			
Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111		

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

10:00	Damascus (SJ)
10:00	Sana'a (RJ)
10:15	Amman (RJ)
10:15	Kuwait (RJ)
10:20	Jeddah (RJ)
10:30	Kuwait (RJ)
10:45	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:45	Luxembourg (RJ)
11:00	New York, Vienna (RJ)
11:15	Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
11:30	Sana'a (RJ)
11:30	Bangkok (RJ)
11:30	Bucharest, Istanbul (RJ)
11:45	Baghdad (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:30	Dubai (EK)
10:10	Sana'a (RJ)
10:20	Cairo (MS)
10:25	Bahrain (GF)
10:30	Kuwait (RJ)
10:40	Baghdad (IA)
10:45	Paris (AF)
08:15	Baghdad (AF)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:00	Amman (RJ)
12:15	Jeddah (RJ)
12:15	Montreal, New York (GJ)
12:30	Vienna, Chicago, Los Angeles (RJ)
13:15	Pasafik, Copenhagen (RJ)
13:45	Cairo (RJ)
14:00	Dubai (RJ)
14:00	Kuwait (RJ)
14:15	Baghdad (RJ)
14:20	Jeddah (RJ)
14:25	Cairo (RJ)
14:30	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
14:30	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
14:45	Baghdad (RJ)
14:50	Bahrain, Sharjah (GF)

15:35	Kuwait (KU)
16:00	Baghdad (IA)
19:25	Baghdad (AF)
01:15	Paris (AF)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg	
Apple (golden)	350 / 300
Apple (red)	340 / 300
Apple (pink)	340 / 300
Apricot	720 / 650
Banana	400 / 350
Banana (Minkamas)	350 / 300
Beet	120 / 100
Cabbage	60 / 40
Carrot	160 / 120
Cauliflower	160 / 120
Cherry	1000 / 800
Corn	130 / 100
Cucumbers	160 / 120
Eggplant	250 / 200
Garlic	250 / 200
Grapes	280 / 240
Grapes (red)	250 / 200
Lemon (yellow)	800 / 700
Lemon (green)	380 / 350
Marrow (large)	250 / 200
Marrow (small)	250 / 200
Okra	600 / 500
Onion (dry)	330 / 280
Pepper (red)	300 / 250
Pepper (green)	350 / 300
Potato	250 / 200
Watermelon	130 / 100

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

LAWZI, MAJALI RECEIVE ENVOY: Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi Sunday discussed with the Turkish ambassador to Jordan Samih Belen the conditions of the Muslim community in Bulgaria. Lawzi stressed that Jordan, as a member of the Organisation of Islamic Conference, respects the resolutions adopted at the various Islamic conferences on this issue and voiced hope that both the Turkish and Bulgarian governments will be able to find an immediate solution to this issue. Also Sunday, Public Security Department Director General Abdul Hadi Al Majali received Belen, who called at the Public Security Department to bid farewell at the end of his tour of duty in Jordan. (Petra)

OMANI MILITARY TEAM: Army Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb had a meeting here Sunday with a delegation from the Omani Staff and Command Academy. The two sides reviewed the military situation in the Arab region and scopes of cooperation between the armed forces of Oman and Jordan. The delegation was later briefed on the development of the Jordanian Armed Forces and their main duties. The academy delegation, consisting of teachers and students, arrived in Amman Saturday on a several day visit at the invitation of the Jordanian Armed Forces. Its members will tour a number of military positions and other sites of interest in the Kingdom. (Petra)

KARAK DEVELOPMENT: The Karak Governor Monday presides over a meeting for the South Province Development Council, during which the council will approve the province's development plan and the recommendations made by the technical committee, on the economic and transport sectors and the local councils in the governorates of Ma'an, Tafleh and Karak. (Petra)

Faisali's match with Yemeni side disrupted

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian champions' Faisali's opening match with the Yemeni Sana'a Ahli team in the first Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) Champions' Cup had to be abandoned Sunday after players on both sides assaulted each other and match officials. With about three minutes to go, the score stood at 1-1.

Earlier, the Yemeni team had opened the scoring when Issam Dreihan slammed a magnificent 35-metre shot into the top right-hand corner, leaving Faisali goalkeeper Milad Abbasi in a chance. Faisali had responded in the

second half with fine attacking football, constantly pressuring Sana'a Ahli until Subhi Awad scored in the 80th minute. As the game closed, tempers mounted and the players started jostling each other and the referee. The final incident came off a Faisali corner, and led to both sides' reserves, coaching staff and officials coming onto the pitch in what became an intractable dispute. Five minutes later, the Yemeni team walked off to the changing rooms, followed by Faisali. The two national teams were played at the close in their absence.

HCST appoints new secretary-general

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST) has appointed Dr. Abdullah Touqan as its new secretary-general who commenced his duty Saturday.

Touqan, who earlier served as member of Yamouk University staff for two years, is a graduate from Liverpool University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He holds a doctorate degree in theoretical particle physics.

Besides his new duty, Touqan will continue to serve as an advisor to His Majesty King Hussein on scientific affairs, a post he had occupied for the past nine years.

The former HCST secretary-general, Dr. Jawad Anani res-



Dr. Abdullah Touqan

igned his post and now runs his own economic consultancy firm in Amman.

Hotel gets new director of sales

AMMAN (J.T.) — Ms. Rabah Omaish, sales manager of Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental has been promoted to the position of director of sales.

Omaish joined the hotel in July 1983 as sales manager and since then she has played a major role in promoting the hotel and maintaining its position in the local and international markets.

She has actively participated in many sales and training courses held by Inter-Continental Hotels



Rabah Omaish

Corporation in different Middle East and European countries.

She also represented her hotel in different international trade fairs as part of the Jordanian delegation headed by the Ministry of Tourism.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by Jordanian and Arab artists at Al Wasiti Art Gallery.
- ★ An art exhibition entitled "Study in Line and Colour" by Dodi Tabaa at the Petra Bank Art Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "French Jazz Nowadays" in which several videos will be shown at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ A photo exhibition which includes photos depicting the great role played by the leaders of the Great Arab Revolt at the Palace of Culture, Al Hussein Youth City.
- ★ A photo exhibition by August Sander at the Goethe Institute.
- ★ An art exhibition entitled "Tents and Stones" by Samia Al Zura at Alla Art Gallery (Flying Carpet).
- ★ An art exhibition by three Arab artists representing Bahrain, Syria and Jordan at the Housing Bank Art Gallery.
- ★ An art exhibition entitled "Songs of the Earth" by Mohammad Nasrallah at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of stamps from the Arab Cooperation Council countries at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of Soviet stamp collection at the Yamouk University.

LECTURE

- ★ A lecture (in Arabic) by Mazen 'Asfour entitled "Art between abstraction and realism" at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 6:30 p.m.

Cabinet endorses amendments

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet has approved an amendment to the Civil Service Commission (CSC) law whereby Jordanian civil servants seconded for jobs abroad are allowed to spend a longer period of time in service before returning home to their original jobs.

The amendment opens the way for new employees to be given jobs in government offices, according to the cabinet statement issued Sunday.

The cabinet also endorsed an amendment to Ministry of Higher Education law. Under the amendment the cabinet gives itself the authority to issue new regulations for setting up new higher education institutes and to name their board members and define their authorities.

The council approved of an

amendment to the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) whereby the bank should have a council chaired by its board chairman to deal with the internal affairs. The chairman would appoint two deputies and five members to the council, according to the cabinet statement.

The cabinet also endorsed an amendment to the Jordanian dental association law.

The cabinet, meeting under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, approved of an extension of a period during which beneficiaries from housing loans are required to pay their dues to the Housing Corporation.

According to the amendment, beneficiaries are now able to spread their premiums over 30 years instead of 20, a law that would be applied to all corpora-

tion projects in the Kingdom. The cabinet gave its approval for the formation of missions to accompany pilgrims on their way to Mecca for the holy pilgrimage in the coming month.

It said that the missions will group representatives of the ministries of Information, Health and Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

The cabinet, which met in regular session Saturday evening, approved of an agreement on cooperation in judicial affairs with the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries, which was reached during the Alexandria meeting by the heads of the ACC countries. The agreement would organise judicial affairs among the four ACC countries: Egypt, Jordan, North Yemen and Iraq.

Conference to discuss financing housing projects in Arab countries

AMMAN (J.T.) — Delegates from Arab countries and at least four foreign nations are gathering in Amman for Monday's opening of a four-day regional conference on financing housing projects.

A spokesman for the Housing Bank, which is organising the meeting in cooperation with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), said that the seminar will review 15 working papers dealing with the experiences and experiments in financing housing schemes in the Arab region.

One of the cases to come under scrutiny by the participants is Jordan's Housing Bank's experiment which, according to experts is considered one of the most successful in the Third World.

According to the spokesman, the Housing Bank's experiment was adopted in a number of Arab countries and was recommended as a model for the Arab League's projected Pan-Arab Housing Bank.

Questions like incentives for investors in housing schemes, the role of the private sector in housing projects and problems related

to owners of land and the relationship between investors and banks, will be discussed at the meeting, which will be held at the Amman Plaza Hotel under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Among those arriving Sunday for the meeting were delegates from Morocco, Algeria, Oman, Tunisia, Portugal, Jamaica, Turkey and the United States.

According to the spokesman, a special programme has been worked out to enable the delegates to tour a number of housing projects in Jordan, such as those implemented in the Jordan Valley.

Last October, a national strategic study on housing in Jordan revealed the urgent need to build low-cost housing units for families with limited income, and said the coming two decades were expected to witness a real challenge for the country, to ensure sufficient homes for all, at the lowest possible cost.

The study revealed also that Jordan was in need of 430,000 new housing units between now and the year 2006, at the annual

rate of 20,000, mostly benefiting families within the limited income group.

The study, revealed at a seminar held in Amman, said that the past decade witnessed a noticeable activity by the housing sector in Jordan in response to the great need for homes. But most units and homes benefited moderate and higher income groups, which resulted in an imbalance in the housing market, thus prompting the government to give attention to setting up homes for those with limited income.

Minister of Public Works and Housing Shafiq Zawaideh told the October meeting that there was need now to give due attention to reducing the cost of building materials and to developing the skills of technicians and workers employed in construction.

The minister said that the government was urging all concerned parties in the construction business to give due attention to the types of land used for housing, and to make maximum benefit from locally produced materials for building purposes so as to reduce the cost.

Ministry proposes cancelling work permits for ACC nationals

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Labour has prepared a working paper to be submitted to the cabinet proposing that work permits for North Yemeni, Iraqi and Egyptian nationals be cancelled in implementation of resolutions taken by the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) heads of state in Alexandria earlier this month.

A report in Sawt Al Shabab daily said that the proposal will be in harmony with the new policy being adopted by Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and North Yemen regarding the employment of nationals from any of these countries in the other.

The paper quoted informed sources at the Ministry of Labour as saying that the ministry's proposal will demand that no work

permits should be required from nationals of these countries for their employment in the country, and that they ought to be treated on equal footing with their Jordanian colleagues.

The paper quoted the sources as saying a total of 63,050 work permits were issued for foreign and Arab workers in 1988 and

that at least 61,000 of these workers were Arabs.

Non-Jordanian workers employed in the Kingdom are required to pay a JD 300 for their work permits, but Arab workers pay JD 100 only, unless they are employed in agriculture or as nurses, in which case they are required to pay JD 30 only.

CEMENT TO SOMALIA: A consignment of 4,000 tonnes of Jordanian cement is on its way from Aqaba to Somalia, according to an announcement here Sunday. It said that the consignment, the first of its kind to Somalia, is in implementation of a deal reached between the Jordan Cement Factory and the Somali government on the sale of 8,000 tonnes of Jordanian cement. A company spokesman was quoted as saying that the sale marks the company's plans to open new markets for its products abroad. Jordan sells cement to Egypt and Sudan under previous agreements signed with the governments of the two countries. (Petra)

Jordan calls for closer cooperation on all levels in combatting drugs

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Jordan Sunday called for closer cooperation at the regional and international levels in means of combatting drugs and fighting narcotics in all their forms.

"Local and national efforts in this connection seem to be insufficient to eradicate the problem of drug taking and drug trafficking and there is an urgent need to step up regional and international cooperation," Public Security Department (PSD) Director General Abdul Hadi Al Majali said in a statement on the eve of the International Anti-Narcotics Day which falls on June 26.

"The danger of drugs is threatening the future generations and is shaking the stability of numerous societies around world," Majali noted in his statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

"The Arab society has not yet reached the edge of the abyss as many nations did, but that should not prompt us to sit back and relax since the drug danger is growing in intensity and spreading like wildfire everywhere," Majali warned.

"No nation can handle the question of drugs on its own in view of the easy transportation facilities, and free trade which opens the way for drug trafficking and smuggling operations," Majali added.

Jordan, he said, is determined to rid itself of the drug trafficking and drug taking problem through all possible means.

In view of its central geographical location in the Arab World, Jordan has served as a transit territory between major drug consuming and producing countries in the Middle East. But this problem is being dealt with firmly," Majali noted.

He said that branches for the Anti-Narcotics Department have now been opened in various provinces, ports and border posts. Police dogs are being used in the search for drugs. Police helicopters have now entered the service and joined the effort in combatting drug trafficking, while cooperation with Arab and foreign countries is being stepped up.

"Jordan was one of the first

few Arab countries to set up a national committee to combat drugs in implementation of resolutions by Arab ministers of interior, and the Kingdom has been actively helping other Arab countries in combatting drug trafficking operations," Majali added.

Colonel Ghaleb Zoubi, director of the Anti-Narcotics Department, said that drugs do not pose a serious threat to the Jordanian society, but in view of the wide range of the drug problem, his department was maintaining alertness and full preparedness to fight any possible danger.

"Only a few consumers of drugs do exist in Jordan, and most of these have acquired the habit while living abroad for some time," Zoubi noted.

He said that recent studies revealed that 13 out of every 1,000 citizens are drug takers in Jordan, one of the lowest rates in the world.

The total number of drug addicts in the country now stands

Cooperation with Australia

AMMAN (Petra) — Cooperation between anti-narcotics departments in Jordan and Australia was discussed here Sunday by Mr. Francis Egan from the Australian department and Colonel Ghaleb Zoubi, director of the Anti-Narcotics Department in the Public Security Department (PSD).

Egan toured the department's sections and heard a briefing on their functions and operations. Egan, who is liaison officer for his department and stationed in Cyprus, is visiting Jordan to discuss the prospect of promoting Jordanian-Australian cooperation in combatting drugs.

at 458 of whom 139 have been visiting clinics for treatment and rehabilitation, Zoubi pointed out.

He said his department is seeking assistance from religious leaders, educators, the media and others to try to spread awareness among the public against the danger of drugs, and is conducting research on means of reducing the drug problem.

Zoubi said that the PSD was seeking to establish a regional centre for the rehabilitation of drug addicts to provide services to victims from Jordan and the Arab World.

A team has now been set up to make contacts with the Arab countries to pave the way for this centre, and work is underway to prepare for a regional meeting in Amman in November to discuss the question of drug trafficking and drug addiction, which will discuss the prospect of establishing the projected centre, he noted.

Zoubi revealed that in the first half of 1989 Jordanian authorities seized 3,655 kilogrammes of hashish, 2.5 kilogrammes of heroin and 300,000 captagon pills in operations involving 187 persons including Jordanians.

In the past year, 1,152 kilogrammes of hashish, 7.5 kilogrammes of heroin, two kilogrammes cocaine and 45,000 captagon pills were seized in operations involving 258 people, Zoubi noted.

He said that the danger of drugs spreads the price increases and consequently the attempts to peddle the illicit product increase.

Colonel Hashem Al Qaisi, the director of the Arab Anti-Narcotics Office which is based in Amman, said that only through pan-Arab strategies can the problem of drugs be dealt with.

Qaisi noted that coordination among the Arab countries in this respect is being done through the Arab Interior Ministers Council and through the adoption of very stern laws as well as the imposition of heavy penalties on those who deal with drugs.

Qaisi cited the formation of national committees and specialised departments to deal with the drug issue as among the most beneficial methods so far adopted in dealing with the problem.

Arab medical council ends meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — The executive bureau of the Arab Council for Medical Specialisations Sunday fixed the number of representatives to the council's higher committee at two doctors from each country, one from Ministry of Health and the other from the educational institutions.

At the conclusion of its two-day meetings in Amman, the council also decided to hold its meeting every two years instead of the yearly meetings.

The council further fixed the number of representatives from each of the member states in the council's scientific committees by three, to be derived from the Ministry of Health and the faculties of medicine, irrespective of their number.

The bureau set the consultative council meeting for Jan. 6 and delegated Health and Social Development Minister Zuhair Malhas to follow up this issue with the Council of Arab Health

Ministers.

Participants approved the council's statute and its financial regulation, in addition to the general secretariat's structural organisation and the job descriptions.

At the end of their meetings, participants cabled appreciation to His Majesty King Hussein and to Health and Social Development Minister Zuhair Malhas, who is also chairman of the council's higher committee.

S. Yemen honours the late Prof. Ghul

AMMAN (J.T.) — The late Professor Mahmoud Ghul was Saturday awarded the South Yemeni Decoration of Arts, in recognition of his services and academic research on Arabia and Bilad Al Sham.

Giving away the award to Ghul's widow, Mrs. Rita Ghul, was Dr. Mohammad Bafaqih, on behalf of South Yemen.

The awarding ceremony took place under the patronage of Minister of Higher Education and President of the Royal Academy of Islamic Civilisation Dr. Nassereddin Al Assad. Also present were Dr. Adnan Badran, minister of agriculture, Dr. Mohammad Hamdan, president of Yamouk University. Also attending were professors and scholars of the Jordanian universities, friends of the late Prof. Ghul and members of his family.

In recognition of the deep interest of the late Prof. Ghul in Arabia and for his academic and research services to Yamouk University and other institutions, the Special Royal Commission of the University has decided in 1984 to establish under his name a chair for Arabian Studies at the Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology. This will hopefully contribute to the archaeological, anthropological and epigraphic studies of Arabia.

The university has also formed a board consisting of scholars and academic personalities from in-



Mrs. Rita Ghul receives the South Yemeni Decoration of Arts on behalf of her late husband, Prof. Mahmoud Ghul, from Dr. Mohammad Bafaqih.

Also present is Minister of Higher Education Dr. Nassereddin Al Assad and Yamouk University President Mohammad Hamdan.

side and outside the university to administer all affairs related to the chair.

The dean's council of the university has also decided to establish a special fund to finance the chair and allocated JD 20,000 for this fund to get it started, provided the chair's council would seek the necessary sum by donations and grants of those individuals and institutions who are interested to promote this field of study.

The university has acquired the library of late Prof. Ghul and placed it under a special collection in its central library and it is now accessible for researchers and students. Mrs. Ghul has given the collection of old and travel books on loan to the library of the Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology.

Yamouk University pays special attention to the study of the civilisation and heritage of the Arabian peninsula and Bilad Al Sham. In 1984 the university decided to establish the Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology which offers graduate programmes in various areas of archaeology, anthropology and epigraphy.

The institute is now sponsoring a large number of field and other research projects including surveys, excavations and social history studies. This is in addition to the study of the Near Eastern languages with special emphasis on the epigraphy of Arabia and Bilad Al Sham including those inscriptions written in Greek and Latin. These are the areas in which Prof. Ghul was very much interested.

The institute has now a number of

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Give orphans due care

IT IS indeed commendable what Theodor Schneller School in Marka is offering the orphans of Jordan in terms of housing and education. Having been involved so deeply in the business of aiding orphans and poor children ever since 1860 when the school started its operation in Jerusalem and then moved on to Amman in 1958 to continue its great humanitarian work, Schneller School has become almost a household term for Jordanians of all walks of life.

Yet it is high time to investigate anew the whole concept of how to deal with orphans whether through the facilities of Schneller School or through other institutions — like the SOS village — that have also developed a respectable degree of expertise in helping the cause of orphans in particular. To begin with, the need to develop new avenues and to articulate new conceptual frameworks for dealing with orphans has become more pressing of late in the wake of recent empirical evidence submitted by psychologists and psychiatrists from reputable centres of learning, that most children who are deprived of "home atmosphere", whether of natural or foster parents, end up with massive psychological and emotional problems which in turn tend to make them socially misfits and crime oriented.

Granted that traditional Jordanian social norms have yet to develop tolerance towards accepting the foster home phenomenon, Jordanians who really want to help out orphans in the best way possible, should begin the process of reevaluating their existing perspectives about orphans including those who are born out of wedlock. The traditional stigma still attached to children out of wedlock calls for also a fresh perspective in the sense that it is rather the biological fathers and mothers who produce such children who are the illegitimate ones, rather than the innocent children who deserve only the sympathy and understanding of their society rather than their condemnation for something they cannot be possibly blamed for.

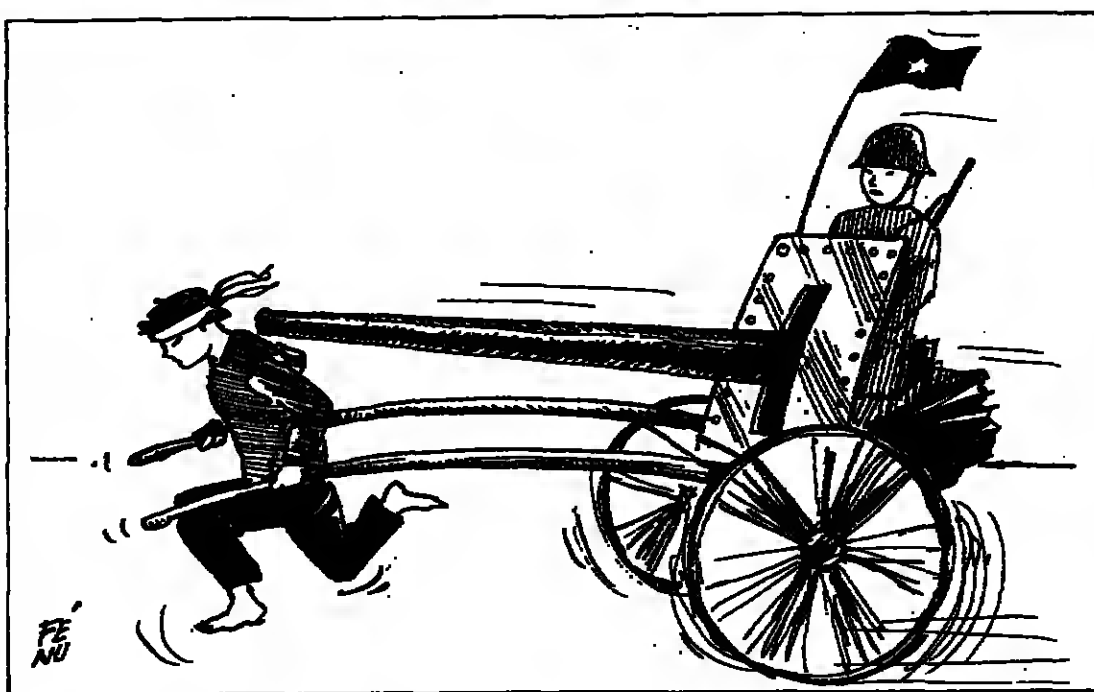
There is therefore a pressing need to reevaluate and reexamine our concepts and outlooks on how best to help our orphans and start reaching out for new ideas on how best to satisfy the children's emotional and psychological needs. The most effective operational way to start this new process of reappraisal is to enact new laws that are in harmony with international norms and instruments relating to children. Let us hope that we have the courage and vision to introduce new laws to protect our children per se no matter how they came to life to ensure that children are put in the healthiest emotional setting possible.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily on Sunday commented on celebrations held at Al Hussein Youth City's Palace of Culture on Saturday to mark the anniversary of the Great Arab Revolt. It said that the celebrations which were attended by King Hussein who inherited that revolt and its principles and objectives, marked the climax of the Kingdom's festivals that remind the Jordanian people of the great endeavours of Sharif Hussein Ibn Ali who led the Arabs towards struggle for liberation and unity. The paper said that the Jordanian people feel proud of their country's achievements under the heir of the Great Arab Revolt in the domestic and pan-Arab fields which culminated in the birth of the Arab Cooperation Council that fuses Iraq, Egypt, Jordan and North Yemen into one great group with common objectives. The paper referred to the document presented to the King at the festival and said that it represented the people's affection to their leader and a new pledge for hard work towards the accomplishment of further progress and development under the Hashemite rule.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily criticises the U.S. administration's position with regard to the convening of an international peace conference to find a solution for the Palestine problem. Ibrahim Sakikha says in his column that the United States has just turned down a Soviet proposal for submitting Shami's plans to the U.N. Security Council which means that it can do nothing beyond the framework of its own agreement with Israel and the Shamir election plan. The United States does not know anything about real peace or the projected peace conference but keeps bragging about the need for the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and indeed it does not give any regard to the equation of swapping land for peace as demanded by the Arab World, the writer notes. He says that it is true that the Bush administration has taken steps towards dealing with the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people but it had not committed itself beyond the ideas contained in the Shamir election plan. The writer points out also that it is Israel that is leading the United States in this matter and not the other way round; and that Shamir's plan continues to derail any thoughts in Washington about convening an international conference.

Sawt Al Shaab daily described the festival held at the Palace of Culture Saturday as one organised by the youth of Jordan with the purpose of displaying their allegiance to the monarch and the Hashemite throne. The paper said that the youth of this country form a bridge to link the past with the present and the future, and that they will no doubt help implement the objectives of the Great Arab Revolt to which the Hashemite leaders were committed and which the King had been striving to attain. The paper said that the youth of Jordan form the backbone for socio-economic development and they hold the cards for any progress, construction and development in this country. The festival at the Palace of Culture, the paper added, involved representatives of Jordan along with the other four member countries of the Arab Cooperation Council in addition to those from Bahrain and Oman, thus displaying a unity among Arab countries and pledging further determination and endeavours to serve the goals of the Arab Nation as a whole.



China's harsh repression leads to growing diplomatic isolation

By Jim Abrams
The Associated Press

BEIJING — China, which played host to both U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev this year, now appears to be slipping toward diplomatic isolation because of its crackdown on dissent. Tiananmen Square, usually adorned with the flags of a parade of visiting dignitaries, is ringed instead by soldiers enforcing martial law. The only high-level visit on the agenda is the Foreign Minister of Sao Tome and Principe.

Once the West's most-favoured Socialist nation because of its capitalist-style reforms and its independence from Moscow, China is being shunned following the military's attack on pro-democracy protesters and a series of mass arrests.

Backed only by a few Communist states such as North Korea, China's diplomatic horizons suddenly appear similar to those of the 1960s, when Albania was its best friend and solidarity with Third World revolutionaries its main purpose.

The United States has suspended military sales and contacts, and cancelled high-level meetings. Canada has recalled its ambassador. France and the Netherlands have frozen diplomatic relations. Belgium has banned all official visits and new cooperative projects.

West Germany has cancelled a parliamentary visit and Mexico has stopped a visit by its foreign minister because of what it called the "considerable violence" in Tiananmen Square.

Britain has postponed talks on the return of Hong Kong to China in 1997 and a planned visit by

Prince Charles and Princess Diana scheduled for the fall is now on hold.

Nations that have long courted China are condemning it in language normally unheard of in cautious diplomatic circles.

Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke spoke of the "repression and brutality" of a government executing those involved in the popular uprisings. French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas referred to the "horror" and "veritable murders" of China's "totalitarian machine."

Even the recent congress of the Socialist International has voiced its outrage, and Soviet leader Gorbachev has warned that halt in China's reforms poses a danger to the world.

China's response to the foreign criticism has been muted.

"They're being amazingly quiet," said one Asian diplomat. "I think they'll sit and wait and they honestly believe it will blow over in three months or so. They'll start getting worried in two months if it doesn't blow over."

Even in criticising the United States for imposing sanctions, the government has been careful to avoid a complete rupture.

"The Chinese side hopes to maintain and develop Sino-U.S. relations," a foreign ministry spokeswoman said.

But Premier Li Peng, in a meeting with a foreign ministry delegation from Pakistan, stressed that "in times of difficulty, it is very clear who are true friends."

Li said those countries that try to exert diplomatic and economic pressures on China are "short-sighted and unwise."

The premier was speaking from a 2,000-year-old tradition of in-

isularity in which the middle kingdom thought it had little to gain and nothing to learn from contacts with what it viewed as the uncivilised nations beyond its borders.

But Deng Xiaoping, since rising to power and inaugurating his open-door policy a decade ago, has brought dramatic changes to China's foreign relations.

In 1979, he ended three decades of mistrust by restoring relations with the United States. Wartime enemy Japan is now China's major source of development aid. Britain in 1984 agreed to return Hong Kong to China in 1997 in a model agreement on the peaceful transfer of territory.

In recent years, Deng has revived moribund relations with Eastern Europe, built solid ties with Thailand and other Asian nations, ended years of hostility with India, started trade ties with anti-Communist South Korea and even coaxed Taiwan into more unofficial contacts.

In May, Gorbachev came to Beijing for the first Sino-Soviet summit in 30 years, a triumph for Deng marked by the occupation of Tiananmen Square by thousands of pro-democracy students.

Now, the sharp drop in outside contacts is starting to be felt, said one European diplomat.

"The line of propaganda tries to put out that everything is normal," he said, "but at the working level these measures will not go unnoticed."

China badly needs foreign technology, financial assistance and tourism for its economic modernisation drive. Its leaders have repeatedly stressed that the country's open-door policy should not be affected by the domestic turmoil.

New Chinese party chief Jiang: Little known outside Shanghai

PEKING (R) — Jiang Zemin, the dark-horse candidate picked on Saturday to head the world's biggest Communist Party, is little known outside Shanghai, where he has served as mayor and local party chief.

The thickest, scholarly-looking Jiang speaks to visitors in a soft-spoken but self-confident manner, according to Westerners who met him in Shanghai, China's largest city.

His handling of pro-democracy turmoil there since mid April showed his uncompromising style.

Soon after the start of student-led protests, he ordered the takeover of China's most liberal newspaper, the Shanghai-based World Economic Herald.

Jiang dismissed the editor and sent a committee from the city government to run the newspaper, which had printed articles and opinions unseen in the rest of China's tightly controlled press.

The move sparked widespread protest from China's intellectuals who said it smacked of currying favour with the hardline leaders in Peking.

But Jiang managed to quell demonstrations in the city without having to declare martial law or call in the People's Liberation Army, in stark contrast to the bloody suppression of the pro-democracy movement in Peking.

And some student leaders in Shanghai were heartened by his statement that he did not want troops occupying his city.

Like many Chinese leaders, Jiang's personal life is shrouded in secrecy.

He was born in 1927 in the eastern Jiangsu province close to Shanghai, and graduated from the city's Jiaotong University with a degree in electrical engineering in 1947.

Like Premier Li Peng he has a Soviet background. In 1950, Jiang went to the Soviet Union

for about six years of training at Moscow's Stalin automobile plant.

Returning to China, he held administrative posts at factories and research institutes in various cities.

He first appeared on the national scene in 1980 when he was identified by Western

analysts as a vice-minister at the administrative commission for import and export affairs.

He then held a number of posts in state bureaus related to electronics, ending as electronics minister from 1983 to 1985.

Jiang's rise from relative obscurity to Communist Party dominance began in 1982.

Iran looks East, but is not turning its back on the West

By Mohammad Zargham
Reuters

NICOSIA — Iran's emerging post-Khomeini leadership has scored its first diplomatic coup by clinching a deal with Moscow for defence cooperation and major development projects.

But during the landmark visit of Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani to the Soviet Union, Tehran was careful not to give the impression it meant a total break with the West.

"What Iran wants from other countries is for them to accept it and its revolution," an Iranian diplomat in the Middle East told Reuters. "The Soviet Union has completely accepted Iran from this viewpoint."

"We want a relationship based on mutual respect, not one in which one side looks on the other as a milk cow."

Both Tehran and Moscow said the visit — less than three weeks after the June 3 death of Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini — marked a turning point in often strained relations between Iran's 10-year-old Islamic Republic and its Communist neighbour.

Documents signed by Rafsanjani and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev covered a wide range of economic and scientific cooperation through the year 2000, including Moscow's help in boosting Iran's defence capabilities.

As recently as last year, Soviet flags were burned in Tehran de-

monstrations and Moscow's missions in Iran were mobbed as a sign of anger at the Kremlin's arming of Iraq during the eight-year Gulf war and its military involvement in Afghanistan.

But the Iran-Iraq ceasefire that August and the Soviet pullout from Afghanistan, as well as unrest in southern Soviet republics and Moscow's concern over the spread of Islamic fundamentalism there, set the scene for better relations.

In Moscow, Rafsanjani, expected to win presidential polls next month to become the dominant political figure in Iran, put forth his pragmatic interpretation of Khomeini's revolutionary slogan: "Neither East, nor West."

"We also want to have good, healthy relations with all other countries with the exception of two or three which in general take a bad position, or because the essence of these regimes is illegal," he said.

He blamed Washington for making better ties impossible by continuing a freeze on Iranian funds and other policies deemed hostile by Iran.

The Iranian diplomat said the new turn to Moscow was only in response to the Kremlin's new attitude to Tehran.

He noted Iran had also exchanged senior delegations with West European countries after the Gulf war ceasefire last August. The contacts were halted in the aftermath of Khomeini's February death order against British author Salman Rushdie.

But exiled former Iranian President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr, poured scorn on Rafsanjani's deals in Moscow.

"It is shameful... we have returned to the Shah's policy: Give a concession here, a concession there, and try to get by," he told Reuters from Paris.

The pro-U.S. Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, overthrown by the 1979 Islamic revolution, maintained substantial economic ties with Moscow, including the purchase of military equipment.

He said Rafsanjani's main aim was to obtain weapons to keep the armed forces, especially the Revolutionary Guards, satisfied.

In return, Bani-Sadr charged, Iran was ready to accommodate the Kremlin's demands about Afghanistan and unrest among the Soviet Union's up to 40 million Muslims.

A joint communique issued in Tehran and Moscow on Friday said the two sides declared support for "an independent, non-aligned and Islamic Afghanistan with friendly relations with its neighbours."

It skirted the thorny issue of the Moscow-backed President Najibullah's ruling party, which Muslim guerrillas supported by Iran insist should be excluded from any future government.

Rafsanjani, asked about unrest in Soviet Uzbekistan in a Moscow press conference, said the two countries had agreed not to interfere in each other's internal affairs.

Thatcher under pressure to temper anti-Europe stance

By Peter Gregson
Reuters

LONDON — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, under pressure to temper her perceived anti-European stance, may endorse more European cooperation at this week's Madrid summit but on key issues she plans to stand her ground.

In the past week, calls for Thatcher to make a firmer commitment to economic and monetary union with Europe and ease her opposition to a social charter to harmonise workers' rights — two main summit topics — have risen to a crescendo.

At the same time, she has come under sharp attack for the Conservative Party's humiliating loss to the opposition Labour Party in the recent elections to the European Parliament.

Thatcher shrugged off the defeat, the first time the Conservatives had lost any kind of national poll since she became party leader 14 years ago, as due to a poor turnout on a sunny day and denied that she had "got it wrong on Europe."

But many fellow Conservatives and politicians, as well as opposition politicians, interpreted it as a strong signal from the country to soften what critics see as her antagonistic, anti-European stance.

In a possible softening of that stance, British government officials indicated on Friday Thatcher would give strong backing for increased cooperation among the 12 EC members but would reject

a sweeping blueprint for monetary union at the meeting.

Unlike previous EC summits, however, where she was the strongest leader in Western Europe, Thatcher's authority has recently been eroded by West Germany's growing importance.

In the past month her mantle as the main intermediary in East-West relations has passed to Bonn and the special relationship she enjoyed with U.S. President Ronald Reagan is not so special with George Bush.

At home, rising inflation, a sliding pound sterling, policy divisions within the government and widening industrial unrest have all spelled trouble. The "iron lady" suddenly seemed vulnerable for the first time in years.

But her aides were unmoved. "I am not aware we are proposing any changes in our well-established position," one said.

Asked if the prime minister expected to be further isolated than ever this Monday and Tuesday in Madrid, the official said: "We shall have to see. We shall argue for what we think is right. But, significantly, he added: "We aren't going there to raise the temperature."

The officials said Britain would indicate it was prepared to embark on the first stage of the Delors plan for economic and monetary union, a long-range project named after European Commission President Jacques Delors.

But they said the government had strong objections to second and third stages designed to ulti-

mately bring about a central bank and single currency.

Strong backing for phase one of the report might not be enough to head off criticism from Britain's major partners in the community, with France, West Germany and Spain seeking a commitment.

But it would mark a softening of Thatcher's previous virulent attacks on the centralisation of authority in Brussels.

The officials said she would also maintain her resistance to the social charter, which she has branded a "Socialist idea and a bureaucratic intrusion on national sovereignty."

Summit host Spain turned up the pressure on Thatcher last weekend with the surprise announcement, on the eve of a visit to London by Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, that it would join the EMS. This left sterling the only major currency outside the system.

France, which takes over the EC presidency from July 1, and West Germany turned the screw further on Monday, declaring that Madrid must make progress on the Delors report "in its entirety."

In an editorial, London's respected Financial Times on Friday said Thatcher faced a conflict in Madrid "between her fundamental convictions and her political instincts," noted by 10 years as prime minister.

But it added that on the question of EMS: "Mrs. Thatcher is now defending the indefensible."

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Making culture popular — not an easy task

By John West
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Hail Ajlouni says he is not pessimistic. For a man who put JD 200,000 of his own money into building a cinema and theatre in his own back garden, only to find that nobody came even when he offered free tickets, that's quite an achievement. But then, Hail Ajlouni is a cultural evangelist, not a would-be showbiz tycoon. He is one of those people who are so convinced of what they are doing, so oblivious to obstacles, that he is, from the ordinary point of view, quite unreasonable. But then, Hail Ajlouni is not interested in the ordinary.

In 1986, he and his wife Iman put all their money ("for a time we didn't have very much to eat") into building a cinema in Sweileh. Their idea was to provide the Sweileh/Salt/Fubeis regions with what they saw as an indispensable cultural amenity. Two hundred and fifty seats, they thought, for a catchment area of 100,000, that should be about right.

The cinema opened in 1987, with ticket prices of just 400 fils for a new clean, ventilated auditorium (the dark decrepit movie houses in downtown Amman were charging one dinar at the time).

"We had opening audiences of five, or two or sometimes none at all," Ajlouni told the Jordan Times.

But it was not only the ameni-

ties of the cinema that were unusual, the Ajlounis were determined to bring culture out of the capital, and showed only what they considered high class international cinema (with Arabic subtitles).

"We had five people come to see 'The Deerhunter', he said ruefully. "After the initial lack of interest, we borrowed films from the Jordan cinema club and put them on free. Even then nobody came."

But could he not have started his project by a mixture of high-brow and popular fare? One tacky Indian love story and one masterpiece in the same programme?

"No, I could not compromise my integrity."

The cinema closed down after only a few weeks, and sits there still almost brand new while cinema fans from Sweileh, Salt and Fubeis still travel in to Amman.

The latest stage

But the Sweileh project was only the latest in a twenty five year mission to spread culture among the Jordanian people. Ajlouni worked in Jordan Television at its inception in 1967, and since then has written dozens of scripts for television, four unpublished novels, and numerous poems.

Far from being quashed into inactivity, his reaction to the collapse of his cinema project was to shoot a film of his own "The Forgotten Flower", which he



Hail Ajlouni

hopes to sell to Jordanian Television.

"Art has many different forms," he says. "To be honest, so far in Jordan literature has failed (to attract the general public), theatre has failed. We have to use the medium of the time."

Ajlouni holds that the Jordanian public has not been successfully lured into cultural activity, and that the artists themselves are to blame. They have been used to lavish support from the government, he maintains, and are unwilling to take the initiative themselves.

"It is not the state which makes art or artists — it is the artist who makes art for the state and for his people."

In the seventies, he continues, the government was actually

buying paintings from local artists and staging exhibitions. The same thing happened with theatre — plays, which then attracted audiences of thousands, were heavily subsidised by the government at a time of new prosperity. But the artists, flush with easy subsidies, failed to establish institutions which could carry on independently or develop an art which had spontaneous appeal to the masses of Jordanian citizens. As the economic situation became more difficult, the money dried up and so did most of the cultural activity. All that was left was television.

Ajlouni feels criticism should be squarely levelled at the television stations for failing to stimulate widespread artistic and intellectual life in the country.

"I am a Jordanian citizen and proud to be a Jordanian artist," he says, so I want to make my views known. Through the Jordan Times, I would like to invite those in authority to open the channels for a new dialogue."

He rejects the idea that television is only serving popular demand when it serves up soap operas and the like.

"The people are not stupid, but how can they be expected to demand something they have never been properly introduced to? If films and series which dealt maturely with everyday problems in Jordan were made, I am sure they would be well received."

"The Forgotten Flower"

Ajlouni's attempt to redress the situation, is openly didactic. A young village woman is traumatised when her husband is killed by a stray bullet at their wedding. Left alone, she loses her grip on reality and goes to wash his clothes everyday in the river. The villagers shy away from this abnormal behaviour and the young boys persecute her, calling her "the Mad One". A new schoolteacher arrives in the village and slowly gains influence over the boys and persuades them that the woman's sadness and their persecution which makes her act like that. As they gradually change their attitudes and accept her, she finally returns to normal village life.

John West's review of *The Forgotten Flower* will appear in this week's Jordan Times weekend issue.

"Good art should involve the people. Nietzsche, the philosopher, talked about 'the superman' with his greater awareness of life. But it was Shakespeare the playwright who made supermen, by drawing thousands and thousands to see what were then very popular plays, and heightening their sensibilities."

Unafraid of cynics, he boldly states:

"Jordan needs its own Shakespeare to make culture popular. There must be one sitting somewhere obscurely right now."

An indigenous film industry in Jordan, Ajlouni feels, is long overdue, and could flourish.

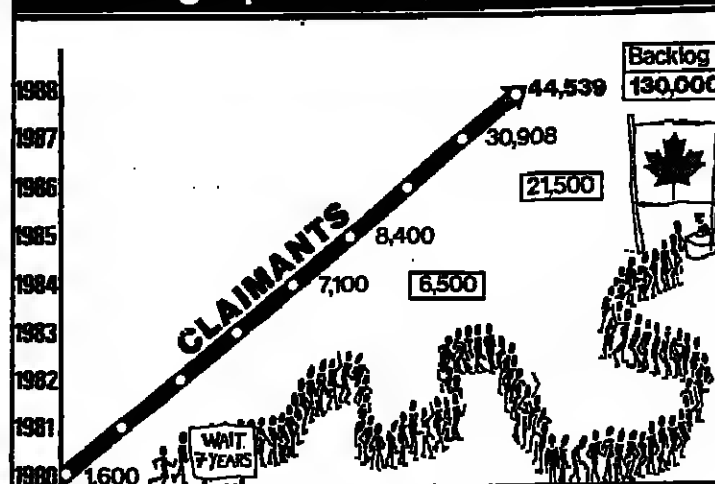
"We must have a philosophy when we make films, we must write like painters and direct like poets. Why? Because the small number of viewers in Jordan would never make the industry viable in itself. The end product would have to leave the Jordanian stage and enter the Arab and world arenas."

The soap opera and shiny romance markets, he says, are in any case already saturated by Egypt.

As for his own film, Ajlouni says he is ready to donate it to the government free of charge for use in any artistic forum overseas, as a sample of Jordanian cinema.

"I invite an official committee to come and see it," he declared.

Queuing up for Canada



Refugee rush tests Canada conscience

By Clyde Sanger

OTTAWA — In 1986, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees presented the Nansen Medal to the people of Canada in recognition of the welcome Canadians had over many years given to refugees. It was the first time in the medal's 40-year history that it had been awarded to a whole nation.

But today, people like Chhinder Pal Bhattia from India, Nasrin Peiroo from Iran and Hussein Mohamoud from the Ogaden region of Ethiopia are wondering why Canadians received this special honour.

They were among the first to face swift deportation after new rules to determine valid claims to refugee status went into force in January.

Bhattia, a 22-year-old Sikh, was put on an aircraft back to Bombay within two weeks of arriving in Canada. An immigration panel had decided he could not claim "a well-founded fear of persecution" (the definition in the 1951 U.N. Convention on Refugees) if returned to India.

Peiroo had told the two person panel hearing her case that both she and her father had been arrested by revolutionary guards and had to bribe officials to get release. She had also suffered internal exile in a remote village.

Mohamoud, an ethnic Somali, told his panel that his mother had been killed by Ethiopian soldiers and his brother tortured. His father had disappeared after being arrested by troops.

But the panels decided there was "no credible basis" for their claims. In Peiroo's case, they did not believe that she would have been allowed to attend university or that her family would have stayed in Iran if she had been the outright opponent of the Khomeini regime she claimed to be.

Neither she nor Mohamoud, however, was promptly deported as Bhattia had been. Canadian lawyers managed to win them full court hearings.

Nevertheless, the three cases illustrate a new toughness of approach as Canada struggles with both its conscience and an almost overwhelming number of refugee claimants.

It has coped, without being overwhelmed, with a large number of refugees in the past. Since World War II, in fact, Canada has provided a new homeland for more than 500,000 men, women and children fleeing from persecution in their own countries.

The largest group of refugees Canada has absorbed are the Vietnamese "boat people." More than 75,000 eventually settled in Canada, a record of which Canadians are proud.

Protocol

The problems began in the early 1980s, when people from all parts of the Third World began to look on Canada as a "country of first-asylum." Canada had signed the 1969 United Nations Convention and Protocol on Refugees, and its new procedure for determining refugees was generous.

It was also cumbersome. It could involve as many as eight stages of hearings and appeals, including a full court hearing. Often cases took years to settle and, as the number of claimants grew, the system became clogged.

Between 1980 and 1985, the number of claimants jumped from 1,600 a year to 8,400. The Conservatives, coming to power under Brian Mulroney in September 1984, had no idea how to deal with such numbers arriving at airports and claiming asylum.

The government tried to discourage more arrivals by refusing work permits to the newcomers. This meant that active and skilled men sat around for years, collecting welfare payments. In one year, more than \$50 million was paid out in Toronto to people caught in the refugee backlog.

In 1986, the Mulroney government decided to clear the slate with a "fast track" procedure. Under it, 23,500 were admitted as

immigrants under what amounted to an amnesty. Of course, this was seen as a green light for thousands more refugee claimants, mainly from Asia but later even from Portugal, who arrived by the plane-load.

Tough law

At this point the Canadian government decided on a tough new law. It used two spectacular "smuggling" incidents — 155 Tamils found in lifeboats off the foggy Newfoundland coast, and 173 Sikhs wading ashore a year later in Nova Scotia — to claim that the country faced an emergency.

The old system was allowed to collapse and, when Bill 55 eventually came into force in January, the backlog of claims (since the 1986 amnesty) had soared to 85,000 — about 130,000 individuals, as some claims embraced a whole family.

The new Immigration and Refugee Board has a double task. It has to clear this backlog within two years, and keep pace with the new claimants. The flow has not greatly slackened.

Gordon Fairweather, the board's chairman, suggests the backlog can be cleared up quicker than think, because some 35,000 statutory declarations are already on file. "Some can simply be dealt with in lots of 50s and 100s, as there are many similar cases, such as Bahais' coming from Iran."

Bahais are obviously genuine refugees under the Convention terms. But there are also some 14,000 claimants from Trinidad and Tobago, and 5,500 Portuguese, who presumably are closer to being "economic migrants."

In speeches, Fairweather has spoken sympathetically of millions around the globe "who are technically not refugees... but who are nonetheless in flight from deadly enemies — poverty, starvation, economic dislocations."

Nevertheless, it seems likely that thousands, or even tens of thousands, of people from this backlog will be deported. The official argument is that they have abused the law by trying to jump the immigration queue.

Last year, out of a total of 159,437 immigrants, some 67,000 were accepted on their independent merits and almost as many came to join family already in Canada. A total of 8,573 refugees — the largest numbers coming from Iran, Ethiopia, Afghanistan and Central America — were accepted under U.N. Convention terms. Another 17,889 were accepted under "designated class" regulations which Canada introduced in 1978.

Concern

The greatest concern is whether the new procedure will work fairly. It has been streamlined so that a claimant comes in front of an immigration official and the board member within a few days. In the first four months, 180 failed this initial hearing, while 2,210 passed to go before a full hearing with two board members.

The law has been softened since first introduced. Immigration Minister Barbara McDougall allowed the controversial clause to lapse that empowered Canadian coastguard vessels to turn back at sea ships suspected of smuggling boatloads ashore.

As well, an list has been compiled of "safe countries," to which a claimant might be promptly returned. This will particularly benefit Central Americans who have come through the United States and fear being returned there now that its laws have been tightened.

Nevertheless Fairweather, who was federal human rights commissioner for seven years, finds himself at a distance from his old allies, the church groups and human rights organisations.

Michael Schelew of Amnesty International has called Bill 55 "a mean-spirited system that offends me deeply." The challenge for Fairweather and his 115 board members is to prove Schelew and others wrong — Kuwait Times.

South Korea's next challenge — education

By Sonya Hepinstall
Reuter

SEOUL — South Korea is tackling education reform but educators and officials say the habits of years of authoritarian control and mismanagement will be hard to break.

The government has kept a tight grip on South Korea's restless universities, determining how many students can be enrolled and, until recently, dictating college curricula which included such subjects as "citizens' ethics".

Educators feel this control may have increased problems, dividing students and teachers, and fostering "underground universities" where disaffected youths meet secretly to study banned books on North Korean leader Kim Il-Sung and Karl Marx.

The government has eased restrictions on some Communist

literature in recent years but Kim remains excluded.

South Korea's politically motivated students have been the most visible sign of opposition to authoritarian rule through street protests with petrol-bombs and rocks.

But officials say a commitment to reform by President Roh Tae-Woo and Education Minister Chung Won-Shik could shake up the whole university system.

"Historically, the ministry's bureaucracy thought it was their responsibility to allow universities to open, to command them when to close, and even how many students, what kind of grade distribution..." said Lee Young-Duk, former head of the state-funded Korea Education Development Institute.

"Now the reaction is very strong. Students want to control the universities... the new minister is a believer in university

autonomy," he said.

Last year the government abolished perhaps the harshest of all controls — a system in which teachers were forced to fail students to maintain a quota on numbers of graduates.

Many South Koreans saw this as a means to give the government power to expel radical students.

Officials and educators say relaxing government control will have a good effect but students, teachers and parents will still face problems.

"The first stumbling block is the rigid multiple-choice national entrance exam. From primary school onwards, teaching is devoted to training students to get a good score. Teenagers study up to 15 hours a day, foregoing play and relaxation."

"Students are used to being trained to pick up the right answer among several choices.

We need more analysis," said Kim Suhng-Dong, Director of the University Education Division at the Ministry of Education.

Memorisation and regurgitation

"This is memorisation and regurgitation. They've never done any library research. They don't know what to do. They don't know how to think, how to analyse," said Edward Poitras, a professor at the Methodist theological seminary in Seoul.

Competition is fierce. More than 90 per cent of families aspire to a college degree for their children.

Those who do not score well must take an irrevocable decision — take the test again or settle for a second-rung school, sealing their fates in a country where the university attended determines job, pay and social status.

Many South Koreans say the exam is a main cause of teenage suicide. "It cannot be denied that the entrance exam is a very, very heavy burden on high school students," Kim said.

In the 1988 school year, about a third of 560,249 students who took the national exams did well enough to enroll.

But for those who cannot get into the university of their choice it is a great disappointment.

One former student, now an activist in his early 30s, told of how he twice failed the exam for the prestigious Seoul National University before deciding on a second-level school.

"When we entered our university we were so disappointed to realise the quality was not the same. We didn't care anymore, and drank a lot our first year," he said.

"The first thing they think about is getting into popular univer-

sities. They study very hard to get in, but nothing waits for them. Now we see an increasing number of mentally-ill students," said Chang Dal-Jong, political science professor at Sogang University in Seoul.

Some students turn to petrol bombs.

"With continued pressure on the exam, students had no chance to develop an adult identity, they were treated just like babies," said the development institute's Lee.

"Now they're university students, a long-delayed identity crisis bursts out. They're very defiant. The more severely they react the more satisfaction they get," he said.

"As years go by the situation will be much different... now, freedom is given — you don't have to be so serious, you don't have to be in such a fighting mood."



Seville shows off the glories of its past and present



Seville takes on a 'Pharaoh's task' for 1992 World Fair

Living up to the past

By Martin Langfield
Reuter

SEVILLE — Seville is so keen to make its guests comfortable when they visit its world fair in the summer of 1992 it is even planning to change the weather.

The city, once the centre of Spain's trade with the new world, expects to attract 18 million people for the "Expo 92" marking the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's voyage to the Americas in 1492.

To spare them some of the withering summer heat, which regularly reaches 40 degrees Centigrade, organisers plan to create a "microclimate" on the exhibition site, the island of La Cartuja on the east bank of the Guadal-

quivir.

They will shade the site with some 400,000 trees and cool it with flowing water which will carry the heat from the exhibition buildings into the Guadalquivir.

The system should make La Cartuja up to eight degrees Centigrade cooler than its surroundings, they say.

So far, 78 countries have confirmed they will take part in the exhibition, surpassing the 77 that attended the last world fair in Osaka in 1977.

But local residents have their doubts that everything will be ready in time. They view fast progress for the rival attraction in Barcelona — the summer Olympics in 1992 — with unease.

"You can't see anything on La

Cartuja yet," one said. "We're going crazy to see something."

With less than three and a half years to go till the opening ceremony on April 20, 1992, the 215-hectare exhibition site is an uninspiring mudflat criss-crossed by earthmovers, diggers and cranes.

"Those who have visited the site... have found it full of promise, but it calls for Pharaonic work before it can receive an international exhibition," Jacques Sol-Rolland, president of the Bureau of International Exhibitions, said at a meeting of future participants here in December.

Organisers say enormous efforts are in hand.

To make sure all the visitors —

33 per cent of them forecast to be foreigners — can get to Seville in the first place, the Spanish government is pouring \$4.17 billion into projects that will have Andalusia's antiquated transport system into the 20th century.

High speed trains

A high-speed train will cut rail time between Madrid and Seville to three hours from the present six, while motorways are to replace the old two-lane roads between Madrid, Seville and the coast.

At Seville airport, capacity is to be quadrupled to 35,000 visitors a day. New hotels are going up, and more are planned, across Andalusia.

"Never, in so little time, has so

huge a public works project been taken on in Spain," exhibition director Manuel Olivencia said.

Work to replace Seville's two train stations with a new terminal by La Cartuja is under way, while in the city centre building sites abound amid the elegant avenues lined with orange-trees.

Some of Seville's finest architecture, including the vast crescent of the square of Spain and the restful pavilions of its Maria Luisa Park, is due to a previous international fair held in the city in 1929.

When the six-month fair ends, organisers say its buildings will remain as University Centres for Scientific Research, picking up the forward-looking aspect of the exhibition.

They say Seville is not content merely to look back on the days when Columbus planned his trips of discovery here and Seville became one of the world's richest cities.

The monastery on La Cartuja where Columbus lived between trips will house the displays dedicated to that past.

But next door will be exhibitions on the present and future discoveries of science, with displays on robotics, computer technology, telecommunications and the latest breakthroughs in biology and physics.

"The 1992 exhibition should be equal to the events of 1492," Sol-Rolland said, and Seville is sparing nothing in its effort to live up to its past.

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سورة الفاتحة

Public behaviour mars government reform drive

By a Jordan Times staff writer

"Oh boy, the dollar is trading at 660 fils in the market today..."

"Gosh, the dollar has hit 675 fils..."

"My God, a friend has told me that he had bought dollars at 700 fils..."

And, thus, the word spreads to another friend and rumour keeps on feeding the fools.

To describe colleagues, neighbours, relatives and friends as fools is surely unrespectful and ill-mannered, but not when I do not detach myself from the group. The foreign currency frenzy that is sweeping every home is really maddening. To a further extent, one can say that anybody who is taking the sidelines is either secretly involved up to his ears in the "new trade" or regrettably lamenting his inability to pitch in his lot.

Listen to a 45-year-old man who knows very little about economic matters, even in general, and who confines himself to following-up events in Israel and the occupied territories telling a secret to a three-

men gathering.

"Confidentially, I hear that the Jordanian dinar will be equal to one dollar before the end of this year."

When one kilogramme of tomatoes was worth 500 fils or more, a mechanic at a garage was asking me if I could provide him dollars. The tomatoes, now selling for 120 fils a kilogramme, seemed not only unimportant then but also last week when he showed his appetite for dollars again.

Many people tell me that I always jump from one subject to another without making the proper link between the two but, you see, it's hard to control emotions when everybody keeps unnering you on the "dollar trade" issue. The talk about foreign currencies is becoming as much conventional as discussing the weather to make new friends and contacts and to attain a social status equal to that of a knowledgeable VIP.

Okay, I know. A few more words and I'll be accused of heating up the situation but,

truly, aren't our economic and social behaviours going to far extremes. Regardless of the reasons and shortfalls that led to the current economic difficulties, there should be a process to change consumer behaviour patterns in Jordan and to change the social values of those Jordanians who cherish Western dresses and perfumes and Western life-style in general.

Now don't get me wrong. More or less, I fit somewhere in the last category. What I am stressing is that every citizen should not only live within his income but, without making a big fuss about government measures, every citizen should also readjust his own personal income within the Kingdom's income.

The above statement leads to areas of specialty to known economic writers and I don't want to step on their toes. I'd rather stick to my simple theme of behaviours.

The ban on imports of luxury items and other non-essentials, the "managed floatation" of the dinar, the crackdown on moneychangers and the price rises which followed should have all forced a positive

change in our "extravagant thinking and actions" to face the reality of us living beyond our personal and national resources. But, it seems, the higher costs did not dent the crave for a "utopia living."

Then, a new approach took shape...

First, the formation of a new government and the appointment of an economic team which can't be described more than "top excellent," especially in light of the hanking background of some of the ministers. Later came the appointment of Dr. Mohammad Said Al Nabulsi at the helm of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) and the statement that he made on gold reserves.

The disclosure of the sale of 27 per cent of Jordan's gold reserves of one million ounces heralded some psychological comfort but it was not enough to alter the frantic amassing and hoarding of foreign currencies by the public whose behaviour was not in line with the frankness of the new CBJ governor.

Let's overlook that element. Other developments which followed ranged from amending

income tax regulations on banks' profits and other accounting practices to another batch of new appointments to highly qualified personnel to key government posts.

For the life of mine, I cannot think of any thing that could have been better to reassure the public and win the citizens' confidence to cooperate willingly with the new drive to achieve economic stability. But, still, there was no slack in the dollar trade; it continued to be active and the consumer behaviour is not where it should have come to rest.

Here is an example:

I was showing this draft article to a friend and she smiled reading the first two paragraphs but then she asked me about the third paragraph. I said it was not really important. But she said she wanted me to publish a "credible" article and pointed out that my friend whom I quoted in the third para was wrong because she had heard that the dollar was trading around 800 fils.

May be I should cite another example on consumer behaviour to show that even middle and low income Jordanians are equally inconsiderate of the

Kingdom's delicate economic situation — though at a level not very noticeable.

The scene was at the 'Ain Ghazal Civil Consumers Corporation. Time: 9:30 a.m. on a Friday. Four shelves each about 20 metres long were emptied of tissue paper and other paper items in less than half an hour, according to an employee there. He said people were lining up from as early as 7:30 a.m.

The rush was probably triggered by a controversy over prices of such products which fluctuated for a week before reportedly being pegged down by the Ministry of Supply.

Analysing the effects of such "personal benefit" attitudes is an endless and unnecessary exercise as it can be summarised in few words... "Disrupting national economic stability."

At this stage, I wonder if the following ideas would help calm the markets and frighten some profit-takers and manipulators who are treating national interests as their last interest.

a) Isn't it appropriate to announce that Jordan will receive, in the coming few weeks, funds from the IMF and the World Bank in exchange for

implementing a structural adjustment programme. I think such an announcement is much needed now to prove that the Central Bank of Jordan will soon be moving to burn not only the fingers but also the hands of all those who speculate with the dinar.

This "tactic" or any other show of warning would surely scare, at least, the small saver and thus prompt a large part of our society to jump off "the dollar bandwagon."

West German financial dealers take the sidelines whenever the name of Karl Otto Pöhl comes up. They say that the chief of the Bundesbank, the West German central bank, enjoys burning the fingers of all those who excessively tamper with the value of the Deutsche mark.

I don't mean to change the subject but, after the "Pöhl factor," I think Jordan needs to see a "Nabulsi factor" or a "Jardameh factor" to really amputate some currency crooks here.

b) No one can argue against the "slowly-but-surely" philosophy but isn't it appropriate for the "economy ministers" to tell the public about the plans

they contemplate or about the steps they quietly implemented in their efforts to shore up the economy — or, more accurately, public confidence in the economy.

A success policy which no one can not but admire is Margaret Thatcher's "sift and carrot" show with militant British miners whose wildest strike years ago threatened to freeze Britons on lack of coal supplies. The fight was a matter of life or death but the interesting part was Thatcher's smart choice of an eloquent and talented specialist in mass communication who brightly allayed fears and won the public backing for the premier.

Jordanians have high expectations that need to be dampened slowly. Careful and coordinated press announcements by top officials are much needed at this stage either to inform the people and give them hope or to educate them and "guide" them to the correct path.

After all, Jordanians need not look too far to know that their living standards continue to be widely envied despite the hardships.

Algeria seeks to boost gas exports

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria is seeking joint ventures with foreign firms to expand its booming natural gas sector and capture a larger share of the world market.

Energy Minister Saddek Bousenna told Reuters in an interview that Algeria was nearing the ceiling of present export capacity for natural gas, a relatively clean fuel increasingly demanded in industrialised nations.

Hit by the fall in world oil prices, the cash-strapped North African country wants to form its first joint ventures in the nationalised hydrocarbons sector to develop its gas reserves.

"We are in discussion with one or two partners to increase our capacity of liquefied natural gas (LNG)," Bousenna said.

"We have plans, if the opportunities appear, to invest more in extra LNG units or gas lines, and we would prefer this to be in the

form of joint ventures, to share the financial burden," he added.

Algeria is already one of the world's top gas exporters, and Bousenna said 1989 sales of natural gas and LNG would top 29 billion cubic metres this year, compared to 26 billion last year.

Bousenna said current export capacity was 40 billion cubic metres a year but the surplus would be absorbed in the next two to three years by recently signed contracts.

Total natural gas production this year was likely to reach more than 100 billion cubic metres from 93 billion in 1988. Most of the gas is reinjected to maintain pressure in the fields.

In the past six months Algeria settled gas price disputes with France, Belgium and Spain. It has resumed suspended shipments to a U.S. firm, Distigas of Boston, and signed new contracts with two Japanese firms.

"We wanted to put an end to all these disputes and now it's done. Now we can devote ourselves to a certain number of markets we have targeted," Bousenna said.

These include both Western Europe, linked to Algeria by a gas pipeline through Tunisia and Italy, and the United States.

"We are convinced that in a few years the American market will absorb more imports of gas, and we want to prepare ourselves to answer this demand rather quickly," he said.

The official daily El Mondjahid said Saturday the state concern Sonatrach was near agreement with two U.S. suppliers, Southern and Colombia Gas, for separate gas contracts totalling up to four billion cubic metres a year from 1991.

Concerns about the environment have boosted LNG demand in the United States.

Algeria has also been sounding out potential customers in Western Europe and is ready to expand the pipeline capacity via Italy to 18.5 billion cubic metres a year from the present 12.5 billion as soon as the market warranted, Bousenna said.

The national assembly is due to debate shortly a new joint venture law offering unprecedented incentives to foreign capital, part of liberal political and economic reforms spurred by riots last October.

\$18 a barrel oil price

Bousenna Saturday predicted that world oil prices would stabilise around \$18 a barrel for the rest of this year if all OPEC members kept commitments made at their meeting this month.

But he told Reuters that OPEC member Algeria would seek prices higher than \$18 for the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) next year.

OPEC's 13 members set a production ceiling for the second half of 1989 of 19.5 million barrels daily (b/d), one million b/d higher than for the first half, and reaffirmed a reference price of \$18 a barrel.

"The first week of July will be important. If there is the disci-

pline subscribed to in Vienna I think prices should stay stable around the reference price of \$18 a barrel," Bousenna said.

The world's most widely traded crude oil, North Sea Brent blend, now trades at just below \$18.

Bousenna said he would not favour an increase in the 19.5 million b/d ceiling when OPEC ministers next meet in September unless demand warranted.

"If demand at that time is above 20 million b/d and the price is above \$18 I am personally disposed to have an increase. But

if the price has not reached \$18 I do not see the need to increase by a single barrel."

Bousenna also said he thought it possible both to defend the \$18 price and accommodate at least partly the higher quota demands of some members.

He said oil remained undervalued on world markets and OPEC should aim next year to sell crude at more than \$18.

"Next year we will ask that this level be revised upwards. Eighteen should be considered as a kind of floor... a reference price on the lower side," he said.

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Iraq freezes prices of state goods, services

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq has frozen for a year the prices of consumer goods and services produced by the state sector, newspapers reported Sunday. They said the move was in line with a decree by the ruling Revolutionary Command Council issued earlier this year to raise average monthly salaries of government employees by 25 dinars (\$80). Government employees were particularly hard hit by inflation in Iraq, especially in the last years of the Gulf war with Iran.

Meanwhile, work on the final stage of a pipeline to carry Iraqi crude oil to Saudi Arabia will end this autumn, the London-based Arabic newspaper Asharq Al Awsat said Sunday. It quoted a spokesman for National for Hydrocarbons Italy (ENI) as saying that 90 per cent of the project has been completed and what remained were mechanical details. He said the 780-kilometre second and final stage of the pipeline cost a total of \$1.5 billion. The first stage of the project was completed two years ago. The pipeline could carry an estimated 1.65 million barrels per day.

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AMMAN - JORDAN

Probe reveals big scandal

WASHINGTON (R) — Investigators have uncovered a maze of incompetence, greed and misguided benevolence at a federal housing agency in a scandal that could cost the U.S. government hundreds of millions of dollars.

The tale features a woman known as "Robin Hood" dubbed for the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Department from which she stole \$5.5 million to give to the poor.

Less honourable motives are evident in other cases emerging from the investigations by Congress and the Justice Department into the affairs of HUD, which finances low-income housing and insures mortgages for low and moderate-cost housing.

Testimony described how a government official awarded huge housing contracts to Republican political cronies — including a group headed by the U.S. ambassador to Switzerland.

A former cabinet secretary got \$300,000 in fees for his influence over the process and this past week brought a report that widespread mortgage fraud may trigger hundreds of millions of dollars in loan losses.

Local housing agencies are also being probed, indictments have been returned and housing projects during former president Ronald Reagan's administration are under scrutiny.

The congressional investigation has focused on three areas:

- The apparent favoritism shown to Reagan's Republicans who sought scarce government funds for lucrative rehabilitation of low-income housing projects;
- The theft of federal funds received in sales of foreclosed property;

Jordan Times

Tel: 667171/4

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Sunday, June 25, 1989
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	85.1	86.0
U.S. dollar	562.0	568.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	405.5	408.6
Pound Sterling	880.1	888.9	Dutch guilder	256.8	259.4
Deutschemark	289.1	292.0	Swedish crown	85.4	86.3
Swiss franc	337.0	340.4	Italian Lira (for 100)	39.9	40.8
			Belgian franc (for 10)	138.6	140.0

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Tender documents can be obtained in FDSP Amman office, Jordan Insurance Building, VI floor, Amman, tel: 645234 on the 27.06.1989 from 9.00 a.m. till 2 p.m., against a non-refundable fee of JD 70.000 per set.

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Police on alert ahead of Serbian festival

Albanian miners strike in Kosovo

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (R) — More than 100 ethnic Albanian miners refused to work in Yugoslavia's Kosovo province Sunday as armed policemen guarded towns to deter unrest ahead of a mass Serbian national festival.

Pitmen at the Trepcia lead and zinc mine, 35 kilometres north of the Kosovo capital of Pristina, stayed away from their overnight shift in protest at not receiving their May salaries and pay bonuses, Tanjug News Agency said.

It was the first overt sign of Albanian discontent before celebrations June 28 of the 600th anniversary of a Serbian battle against Turkish invaders. Up to one million Serbs are expected to travel to Kosovo for the festivities.

Tanjung quoted a Kosovo civil defence official, Mehmet Ajeti, as saying some of the 115 protesting miners "are trying to use the difficult financial situation at the Trepcia mine to destabilise operations again."

More than 1,000 miners staged an underground strike at Trepcia in February, demanding that Kosovo's 1.7 million ethnic Albanians retain the political autonomy they were granted under Yugoslavia's 1974 constitution.

The sit-in touched off a general strike in Kosovo. When Kosovo lost its autonomy in March to Serbia, Yugoslavia's biggest republic, riots flared and 24 people

were killed. Another protester died in unrest in May.

Tanjung said 125 other pitmen worked the overnight shift at Trepcia after discussions with local officials, and the mine was operating normally Sunday morning.

Policemen with automatic rifles manned checkpoints and patrolled towns in Kosovo to prevent ethnic Albanian protests. Authorities say underground Albanian nationalists have vowed to disrupt the Serbian festival with acts of sabotage.

Hundreds of students at Pristina University, a traditional seat of Albanian nationalism, were evacuated at the weekend, officially to make space for large numbers of Serbian visitors expected for the celebrations.

The 200,000 Serbs and other Slavs form a shrinking minority in Kosovo but Serbs, like Albanians, regard the province as the cradle of their culture. Serbs say Albanians are persecuting them with the aim of creating an ethnically pure region.

The anniversary of the 1389 battle of Kosovo Polje, a Turkish victory which led to centuries of Ottoman rule in the Balkans, has inspired an outpouring of Serbian

nationalism. In Belgrade, up to 20,000 Serbs attended an inaugural service Sunday at a Serbian Orthodox cathedral, St. Sava, which is the largest Orthodox cathedral in the world.

In mixed Serbian-Albanian villages in Kosovo, many Albanians staying at home while Serbs strung up banners proclaiming "glory to the Kosovo warriors" and "Kosovo heroes" generations have not forgotten your deeds."

Yugoslav Interior Minister Petar Gracanin toured Kosovo at the weekend to inspect security arrangements, and Kosovo's leadership issued an appeal to Serbs and Albanians for calm.

The battle of Kosovo Polje caused the downfall of the medieval Serbian state, but it inspired legends of Serbian heroism and is at the core of Serbian national consciousness.

Meanwhile the republics of Macedonia and Bosnia-Herzegovina held elections Sunday to choose representatives to Yugoslavia's state presidency, the highest constitutional body with one member from each of the six republics and two provinces.

Both republics were staging competitive elections by direct secret ballot, following the example of Slovenia and Montenegro in April. Those were the first such contested elections since the communist takeover in Yugoslavia in 1945.



HONG KONG PROTEST: Several thousand Hong Kong residents marched through a shopping district to Chinese media offices Saturday to deliver a petition protesting the crackdown on dissent. The two-hour rally and march by at least 5,000 people was the latest expression of the British colony's outrage over the Chinese government's bloody suppression of the pro-democracy movement. The crackdown in China, which has included widespread arrests and some executions, also has intensified fear about the return of Hong Kong to Chinese rule in 1997. Hong Kong protesters began their demonstration at Victoria Park, where they gathered around a 10-metre replica of the "Goddess of Democracy" statue (photo above) that stood in Peking's Tiananmen Square before the crackdown.

Extremists shoot 20 in Punjab

CHANDIGARH, India (R) — Sikh extremists shot dead 20 Hindus exercising in a public park in the northern state of Punjab Sunday morning, police said.

Three policemen were also killed in both blasts near the park, 160 kilometres west of Chandigarh, the state capital.

Police said the Sikh extremists drove a van to the park where members of the right-wing Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), a Hindu revivalist group, were conducting their daily morning exercises in the town of Moga.

The gunmen sprayed the group with automatic rifles and drove away before police arrived.

Indian news agencies said Punjab Governor Sidhartha Shankar Ray ordered police to capture those responsible for the Moga killings within seven days and that he linked the attacks to neighbouring Pakistan.

The killings took the 1989 death toll in the militant campaign for an independent Sikh homeland to more than 950.

More than 2,500 people were killed last year in the Sikh's struggle for a homeland they call Khalistan (Land of the Pure).

An indefinite curfew was imposed on the mainly Hindu town of 100,000 people to prevent an anti-Sikh backlash.

Militants fighting for an independent Sikh homeland in the rich agricultural state have often marked Hindus for attack.

Last year there were a series of attacks on Hindus, mostly migrant agricultural labourers from poorer north Indian states.

The militants' objective in these attacks, according to seized documents, was to create a Hindu backlash against Sikhs living outside Punjab and force them to return to the state where Sikhs are barely in a majority.

The strategy has largely failed. The only serious backlash to have occurred against Sikhs was in New Delhi after Sikh bodyguards killed Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in October 1984.

The assassination was in revenge for the army attack on the Golden Temple.

New cost figures on Stealth shock critics

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressional leaders say newly declassified Defence Department figures on the cost of the B-2 Stealth bomber bolster their argument against spending for the costly programme.

"The Department of Defence has produced a B-2 programme that won't fly financially," Congressman Les Aspin, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, said Friday after the estimates were released.

"Members of Congress are balky at spending \$4.1 billion this year for SDI," he said, referring to the strategic defence initiative, a proposed space-based missile-defence system. "It is not realistic to think we can spend twice as much per year on a plane."

According to the Defence Department, the radar-evading plane will cost about \$2.4 billion over a three-year peak spending period.

The estimated cost for the bomber in fiscal 1990 is \$4.7 billion, including \$2 billion in research, development, testing and evaluating and \$2.7 billion in production.

Estimated costs in fiscal 1991 totals \$5.3 billion with costs in

peak years of fiscal 1992 at \$7.3 billion, fiscal 1993 at \$8.4 billion and fiscal 1994 \$7.7 billion.

Recent estimates have shown the aircraft will cost between \$500 million and \$650 million per plane. The figures released Friday showed the Defence Department has invested about \$22.4 billion in the programme and that the total cost of completing the project would be about \$70 billion.

The Defence Department plans to purchase 132 of the planes, including three in fiscal 1990, five in fiscal 1991, 10 in fiscal 1992, 21 in fiscal 1993 and 24 in fiscal 1994.

Congressman Charles Bennett, a member of the House panel who had called for the department to publicly release the cost figures on the aircraft, said publication of the figures will make Congress take an even closer look.

"I was shocked at the amount of money," Bennett said. "This early on we will look at it with more care and more scrutiny."

The full House Armed Services Committee meets Tuesday and will take up the 1990 National Defence Authorisation Act.

Kazakhstan unrest spreads to towns

MOSCOW (R) — A mob armed with sticks, stones and metal rods stormed a police station in Soviet Kazakhstan as unrest which began last week in the city of Novy Uzen spread to nearby areas, Pravda reported Sunday.

An estimated 150 people who attacked the station at the town of Mangyshlak were dispersed by troops flown in by helicopter, the Communist Party daily quoted Soviet Interior Ministry spokesman V. Sivushov as saying.

Fifty-one people were arrested, Sivushov told Pravda. The report, which said the attack had taken place in the last 24 hours, did not mention any injuries or damage.

Mangyshlak is about 140 kilometres from the oil and gas city of Novy Uzen, where four people were killed in several days of clashes between Kazakhs and various nationalities from Transcaucasia June 17-18.

Pravda said there had also been demonstrations over the weekend by young Kazakhs in the towns of Yeraliyev, Kulsary, Shetpe, and Furt Shevchenko, which like Novy Uzen are all located east of the Caspian Sea.

Novy Uzen is under a curfew, but Pravda said "disorders and

pogroms" were spreading to nearby areas where the curfew had not been introduced.

It did not report any casualties. Soviet media often use the word "pogrom" to describe an organised attack on members of a minority group and their homes, whether or not there are any deaths.

The newspaper said 140 natives of Transcaucasia who had been living in Yeraliyev had demanded that the authorities guarantee their safety, indicating that the disorders there were linked to ethnic tensions.

It said they were escorted to a rest home by police and Interior Ministry troops. Another 80 people were sent to Shevchenko, on the Caspian Sea, but Pravda did not say where they came from or whether they would be moved again.

In Novy Uzen the local Communist Party accepted the retirement of its chief, E. Kumiskaliev, Pravda said, at a meeting called to evaluate the recent disturbances. A new first secretary, R. Chordabaev, was appointed.

The official news agency TASS said last week that Novy Uzen authorities had lost control of the situation in the city.

Greek tanker captain takes blame for spill

NEWPORT, Rhode Island (R) — The captain of the Greek tanker that spilled up to 5.7 million litres of oil off Newport, the millionaires yachting paradise, has taken full responsibility for the accident, Rhode Island's governor said Saturday.

Cleanup crew were meanwhile rushing to remove about seven million gallons of heating oil from the listing tanker, World Prodigy, that struck a reef late Friday. Already the spilled oil had spread over an area of about 52 square kilometres and threatened beaches, the coast guard said.

A leading oil pollution authority said the spill was one of the 10 largest in U.S. history and came only three months after the largest when the Exxon Valdez spilled 42 million litres of crude in Prince William Sound, Alaska.

Less than 12 hours after the Rhode Island mishap, a Uruguayan coastal tanker ran

aground in the Delaware River south of Philadelphia. Coast guard officials said about 380,000 litres of crude were spilled, but that the vessel had been surrounded with booms and crews were working to unload its 430,000-barrel cargo.

A team of White House officials, including Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan, flew over the Rhode Island spill area Saturday.

"This does not compare at all with Valdez," said Michael DeLand, director of the Northeast Division of the Environmental Protection Agency.

"You won't find the oil balls here that we found in Prince William Sound," he said.

Rhode Island Governor Edward DiPrete told a news conference that Captain Georgioudis Iakoukos told him that he was completely at fault for the accident.

Superpowers upbeat as nuclear talks resume

GENEVA (R) — The United States and the Soviet Union believe they can agree on nuclear test verification measures when talks aimed at limiting the size of underground explosions resume in Geneva Monday.

The new round will be the first since President George Bush took office in January but chief U.S. negotiator Paul Robinson says Washington's negotiating position remains substantially the same as during Ronald Reagan's administration.

The talks began in November 1987 but were interrupted last December with the two sides failing to agree on the wording of agreements to limit underground tests to 150 kilotons.

But both sides now say an accord is close. Robinson said surprising progress was achieved last year. "We are in substantially better shape than most (arms control) talks," he told the Geneva U.S. mission's Daily Bulletin recently.

Chief Soviet delegate Igor Palenikh told reporters Saturday Washington and Moscow had significantly narrowed their differences, adding: "We are entering the last stretch."

The two superpowers have already signed the threshold test ban treaty of 1974 and the peaceful nuclear explosion treaty of 1976, limiting to 150 kilotons the size of military and civilian underground blasts respectively.

Although the two countries abide by them, the accords have

yet to be ratified because of U.S. concerns that the 15-kiloton limit could not be adequately verified.

Negotiators will discuss new technology developed by both sides to monitor blasts.

When the talks went into recess the two sides were completing verification protocols to be attached to the two unratified treaties following successful U.S.-Soviet joint nuclear test explosions.

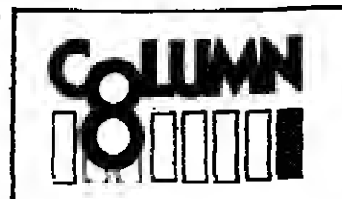
The tests, known as "joint verification experiments" (JVES), were carried out at the U.S. test site in Nevada in August 1988 and at the Soviet ground at Semipalatinsk the following month.

U.S. sources say the protocols will cover verification techniques that both sides would be free to use to measure its future nuclear tests.

They will also allow one side to attend a test blast following notification from the other that the test's yield was to be above a certain level.

U.S. sources said that by the end of 1988 the civilian protocol was near completion but the military one required further negotiation. They will eventually go to the U.S. Senate for approval as a single package.

"Palenikh reaffirmed that the Soviet Union's goal in the negotiations remained a total test ban. U.S. officials say Washington wants to continue nuclear testing as long as it feels it is needed to maintain international security.



French police pelted with nappies

PARIS (R) — French police, more accustomed to barrages of stones and bottles from demonstrators, were pelted with nappies Saturday by protesting nannies and mothers. About 100 women demonstrated in central Paris to support a week-long strike by employees of Paris nurseries and infant schools demanding better working conditions and higher wages. It was not immediately clear if the nappies had been used.

U2 goes green

DUBLIN (R) — U2 have gone green. Ireland's rock superstars, who have sold 50 million albums worldwide with their own unique brand of politically committed rock anthems, have nailed their colours to the Greenpeace mast. Hailing the environmentalist group for getting the world to sit up and listen to doomsday predictions on the environment, U2 have joined 30 other major pop stars on an album to promote the Green cause. The group's guitarists, aboard the Greenpeace flagship in Dublin harbour to launch the album in Ireland, were also jubilant over Green successes in last week's European and Irish elections. "If you plant a seed, it grows," bass guitarist Adam Clayton said after Green Party candidate to the Dublin parliament and the Greens had doubled their seats in the European chamber. Dismissing any suggestions that the Greens were a bunch of bearded, sandal-wearing cranks, Clayton laughed. The clean-shaven guitarist, sporting a pair of open-toed sandals, observed: "If the Greens can mobilise the young voters, that is fantastic." Lead guitarist and composer Dave Evans, known universally as the Edge, was quick to praise Greenpeace for its campaign to close the British nuclear reprocessing plant just across the Irish sea at Sellafield in northwest England. "As the father of two girls I am disgusted it is still going on. I am concerned about Sellafield and that the Irish sea is the most radioactive in the world."

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Rottweiler scare hits England

LONDON (AP) — This is the summer of the great rottweiler scare. Rottweilers are very large, and can be very ferocious, and from recent headlines one might imagine that have Britain under siege. For a nation that cherishes its dog-loving image, it's an unsettling experience, and more than a simple dog-bites-man story. For wealthy political and social issues are in play. The trouble began in April, when two rottweilers savaged an 11-year-old girl to death while she was exercising them in Scotland. Reports of rottweiler attacks have since filled the newspapers. Some 20 have been reported, and they come with precise details down to the number of stitches required. "It seems as if the rottweiler dog... is rapidly assuming the dimensions of the bound of the Baskervilles," comments The Guardian. There are some similarities with Sherlock Holmes' ghostly canine legend; rottweilers weigh in at around 60 kilograms and are built like armoured personnel carriers. Their number has increased sevenfold in Britain in the past decade, to about 180,000. With headlines blaring about "Devil Dogs" biting babies in their cribs, the House of Commons sat into the early hours of Thursday debating the issue. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's own supporters rebelled, nearly succeeding in forcing her government to require dog licensing.

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